

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2001 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-81-2001

Proposed by Council Member Estepp

Introduced by Council Member Estepp

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction November 13, 2001

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Recognition of the African American Union Troops

3 For the purpose of encouraging the recognition of distinguished service of African American
4 members of the Union Army for service in the Civil War with an appropriate commemorative
5 service medal .

6 WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 men of African descent and 7,000 white officers were
7 recruited and organized into units of the Union Army and such forces were collectively known as
8 the "United States Colored Troops;" and

9 WHEREAS, the these troops have a documented record of fighting gallantly and bravely
10 for the preservation of the Union and the freedom of approximately four million slaves; and

11 WHEREAS, despite faithful and loyal service in battle, this unit of the United States Army
12 was denied the right to march in the grand review of the Union Armies in Washington, D. C. at
13 the close of the Civil War; and

14 WHEREAS, sixteen African American soldiers, five of them from Maryland, were awarded
15 the Medal of Honor for service in the Richmond-Petersburg campaign of 1864; and

16 WHEREAS, Major General Benjamin F. Butler, Commanding General of the Army of the
17 James River, ordered a medal struck to be awarded to individual African American soldiers who
18 distinguished themselves in the battle on Newmarket Heights on September 28, 1864, and this
19 "Butler Medal" was the only medal issued to members of these units in the Civil War; and

20 WHEREAS, during the Civil War, the Congressional Medal of Honor and the U. S. Army
21 Civil War Campaign Medal were the only officially authorized medals and African American
22 soldiers were not allowed to receive or wear the Civil War Campaign Medal until authorized in

1 1907, when only 554 were awarded to soldiers who served and who were still living to request
2 their medals authorized; and

3 WHEREAS, it is appropriate and fitting to recognize the courage and sacrifice of the
4 African American members of the Union Army for service to their country during the Civil War.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
6 County, Maryland, that the United States Congress is encouraged to authorize and award an
7 appropriate commemorative medal to these proud and honorable soldiers for service to their
8 country during the Civil War.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council is directed to send a copy of
10 this Resolution to each member of the Maryland Delegation to the United States Congress.

Adopted this 13th day of November, 2001

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Ronald V. Russell
Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council